(d) A reliable estimate of forest area that has been degraded is not available. Sattelite imagery for the period 1980-82 shows that forest cover in the country is 46.35 million ha.

(e) The following are some of the important steps taken by the Government to check illicit felling of trees :—

(1) Strict enforcement of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and of various other enactments to prevent unauthorised felling of trees.

(2) Elimination of the agency of contractors in the working of forests in most of the states.

(3) Creation of fuelwood reserves by undertaking massive tree plantations within and outside the forest areas.

(4) Taking up of intensive studies of the problems of grazing encroachment and shifting cultivation with a view to find long term solutions.

Request of Andhra Pradesh for Atomic Power Plant

*259. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY :
SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has demanded the location of an atomic power plant near Nagarjunasagar ;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal ; and

(c) what action the Central Government are taking in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Site Selection Committee of the Department of Atomic Energy has examined various sites including Nagarjunasagar, to assess their suitability for setting up atomic power stations in the Southern Region. The report of the committee is under consideration of the Government.

Encouragement to Sikhs to join the Canadian armed forces

†260. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the encouragement being given by Canada to the Sikhs to join its armed forces and the recent address delivered by a Canadian recruiting officer at a meeting of the World Sikh Organisation in Toronto to motivate the potential recruits and which was largely attended by proponents of Khalistan ; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) The Government of India is aware of a recruiting officer of the Canadian Armed Forces having attended a meeting arranged by the World Sikh Organisation, on 3rd November, 1985 at The Dixie Road Gurudwara, Mississauga, near Toronto.

(b) The matter was taken up with the Canadian Government who have informed us that the Canadian recruitment officer had attended the meeting under the mistaken impression that its purpose was to discuss carreer opportunities in the Canadian Armed Forces. It has been now decided that all future invitations for giving such talks will be examined in Ottawa before they can be accepted. The

Canadian government hope that there will be no repetition of this kind of incident in the future.

Export of steel by the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation

†1860. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilence Commission in its Annual Report for the Year 1984 has criticised a deal of the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation relating to export of steel to Dubai which had resulted in loss of several lakhs ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation is concerned with development activities and the export of steel etc. is not within its purview; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for allowing the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation to finalise this deal and what action has been taken against defaulting officers involved in the deal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation is primarily concerned with the development of small scale industries in the Union Territory of Delhi. Export of industrial raw materials and goods are however, also with in the parameter of objectives of the Corporation. The Central Vigilance Commission has advised for fixing responsibility and for taking appropriate action against the officers responsible for negligence in the deal which led to losses. This is being considered by the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation/ Delhi Administration in consultation with the Government of India.

Allocation to Tamil Nadu under the Seventh Plan

‡†1861. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) What is the amount allocated to Tamil Nadu under the Seventh Plan ;

(b) whether the economic backwardness of the State was considered while allocating the amount; and

(c) whether in view of the economic backwardness of the State, more allocation will be made to the State of Tamil Nadu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) For the Seventh Plan, Tamil Nadu has been allocated Central assistance of Rs. 1437.86 crores including Rs. 1238.49 crores as normal assistance under modified Gadgil Formula.

(b) In the case of all non-special category States including Tamil Nadu, the allocation of normal Central assistance has been determined on the basis of the principles embodied in the modified Gadgil Formulas approved by the National Development Council.

(c) The total Central assistance estimated for the Seventh Plan has been allocated among all the States for financing their approved outlays. The Seventh Plan outlay of Rs. 5750 crores approved for Tamil Nadu is also fully funded.

† Previously Unstarred Question No. 1030, transferred from the 26th November, 1985.

‡Previously Unstarred Question No. 1115, transferred from the 26th November, 1985.